Intelligence Panel Survival Foreseen

By George Lardner Jr. 6/18/75
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House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said yesterday that he does not think the dissension-torn House intelligence committee will be abolished.

"I think that would be taken as a cover-up," Albert said of the still sputtering House inquiry of the Central Intelligence Agency and the rest of the government's intelligence community.

Although some critical House members have proposed abolition of the committee, Albert and other leading House Democrats indicated yesterday that a realignment of the panel is a more likely prospect.

Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, told reporters he thought a compromise between committee Chairman Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.) and committee Democrats dissatisfied with Nedzi's leadership was still "a reasonable prospect."

The House voted Monday to reject Nedzi's resignation from the chairmanship and the committee, and thus cleared the way for moves to restrict or even end the entire investigation.

Nedzi's most outspoken critic on the committee, Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), was rebuked at the same time by a narrow vote of the House Armed Services Committee for leaking information last year about the CIA's secret operations in Chile.

The House Ethics Committee met secretly yesterday to discuss the Armed Services Committee's decision to deny Harrington access to its files. No action was taken. Ethics Committee Acting Chairman Olin E. Teague (D-Tex.) indicated that hearings would be held on the issue, in light of Harrington's request for an opportunity to testify, but no date was set.